

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health -

WILLIAM HOGG, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., M.R.S.I.,

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health -

P.G. Hancox, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Resigned 26th Feb: 1939.)
A.A. Edwards, (Appointed 1st March 1939.)

Telephone - Ross 214.

County Offices,
Ross-on-Wye.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor:-

G.E. HARDY, L.R.I.B.A., A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A., (Certified Meat
and Foods Inspector).

Additional Sanitary Inspector :-

L. WHITTINGHAM, A.R.S.I., (Certified Meat and Foods Inspector.)

Temporary Housing Inspector :-

D.B. FOXWELL, A.R.S.I., (Resigned 30th June 1939.)

Temporary Clerical Assistant :-

J.H. KELDWELL, (Resigned 30th June 1939.)

Clerical Assistant :-

A.W. Collins, (Appointed 3rd April, 1939).

Telephone - Ross 24.

Rural Offices,
Woodside,
Ross-on-Wye.

ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,

Alton Street,

Ross-on-Wye,

August 28th. 1940.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Ross and Whitchurch Rural District Council :-

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1939, which is drawn up in accordance with Circulars 1961 and 2067, of the Ministry of Health. The Report has been considerably abbreviated and is to be regarded only as an interim report.


I have to acknowledge assistance, willingly given by Mr. D.H. Thomas, Clerk to the Council, and Mr. G.E. Hardy, Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, in the preparation of this Report.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM HOGG,

Medical Officer of Health.



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ROSS AND WHITCHURCH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1939.

SECTION A.- STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	72,105
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939) according to Rate Books:	3,260
Rateable Value of District	£41,880
Sum represented by a penny rate	£185.14.0.

SECTION B.- GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

LABORATORY FACILITIES :-

Particulars of specimens examined during the year
at the County and City Public Health Laboratory, Hereford.

<u>Nature of Specimens.</u>	
<u>Swabs :-</u>	
For Diphtheria Bacilli	107
for Haemolytic Streptococci	87
<u>Sputa :-</u>	
for Tubercle Bacilli	32
<u>Milk :-</u>	
for Haemolytic Streptococci	8
for Enteric Fevers	2
<u>Blood. :-</u>	
for Enteric Fevers	6
<u>Cerebro-Spinal Fluid :-</u>	
for Organisms	1
<u>Urine :-</u>	
for Coli Typhoid Organisms	2
<u>Faeces :-</u>	
for Coli Typhoid Organisms	10
TOTAL	255

At the Birmingham University :-

<u>Swabs :-</u>	
for Diphtheria Virulence Test	3
for Haemolytic Streptococci (Groups).	6
<u>Milk. :-</u>	
for Haemolytic Streptococci (Groups),	4

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.-

During the year, 67 samples of water were sent for laboratory examination, twenty-nine of these were submitted to chemical examination and thirty eight for bacteriological examination. Five samples were found to be unfit for drinking purposes on chemical examination and fifteen unsatisfactory as a result of bacteriological examination.

Two public wells were reconditioned during the year in an attempt to prevent any pollution by surface water and to conserve water during dry periods.

An additional storage reservoir with a capacity of 4,000 gallons was commenced in December 1938, in connection with the Brampton Abbotts Water Scheme. This was completed in February 1939 and was very satisfactory. During the whole of the dry period in the summer months there was always an adequate supply of water in hand, and no shortage was experienced at any time. The provision of an additional pump at the Llangarren Water works is still under consideration by the Council.

The Supplies at Llancloudy and Garway have given complete satisfaction. The springs supplying these schemes have given good yields. In the case of the Garway spring, regular readings are taken of the output from this source. The maximum yield, recorded on the 6th. February, 1939, was 172,800 gallons per day, and the lowest, recorded 6th. September, 1939, was 34,560 gallons per day.

DRAINAGE AND SEWAGE.-

Ten drains have been provided for new buildings and fifty-eight for existing dwellings. These mostly discharged into septic tanks, the effluent being disposed of by submergence.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.-

During the year, 47 privies have been converted to pail closets and 2 privies converted to water closets.

FACTORIES.-

Thirty-seven factories, including twelve bakehouses were inspected and found to be satisfactory.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.-

Inspections :-

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	12
Building Byelaws	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	122
Drains Tested (a) Hydraulic Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	64
(b) Smoke Tests	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	218
Factories with Mechanised Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
Factories without Mechanised Power	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	30
Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	204
Housing (Other Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	493
Investigations re Infectious Disease	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	90
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	47
Overcrowding	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	156
Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Water Samples Taken :-								
(1) Chemical	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	29
(11) Bacteriological	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	38

Notices Issued :-

Informal	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	107
Statutory, re Housing	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
Statutory, under other Acts	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10

121

Summary of Defects Remedied etc .-

(a) Water Supplies.-

Certificates issued for New Houses	...	...	...	14
New Services from Ross-on-Wye Undertaking	...	...	...	3
New Services from the Council's Supplies	...	...	...	3
New Supplies from existing Wells	...	...	...	2
New Supplies from Springs	...	...	...	4
New Wells provided	...	...	...	1
Water Samples taken for examination.-	...	...	...
(i) Chemical	...	...	...	27
(ii) Bacteriological	...	...	...	37
Sources from which more than one sample was taken	...	...	...	5
Maximum number of samples taken from one source	...	...	...	3

(b) Notifiable Disease.-

Rooms disinfected	...	...	...	77
Number of lots of Bedding and Bedclothing disinfected	...	...	...	77
Shelters disinfected re Tuberculosis	...	...	...	2
Schools disinfected..	...	...	...	1

(c) Drainage and Sewage Disposal .-

Drains provided for new houses.	...	...	...	10
New Drains provided for existing houses	...	...	...	38
Privies converted to Pail Closets	...	...	...	48
Privies converted to Water Closets	8

(d) Milk and Dairies Order 1926 .-

Cowsheds improved	13
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(e) Housing Acts .-

Houses repaired	98
Houses reconditioned under Housing (Rural Workers) Acts	26
Cases of overcrowding relieved	...	...	...	6
Nuisances abated	...	...	...	47

SCHOOLS :-

SCHOOL CLOSURES.

<u>School.</u>	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>
Goodrich C of E	9. 1.39 - 20. 1.39	Whooping Cough.
Aston Ingham C of E	12. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Whooping Cough.
Peterstow C of E	16. 1.39 - 20. 1.39	Influenza.
How Caple C.	17. 1.39 - 20. 1.39	Coughs and Colds.
Sellack C of E.	19. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Coughs and Colds.
Tretire with Michaelchurch C of E.	19. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Coughs and Colds.
St. Leonards C.	20. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Coughs and Colds.
Linton Gorsley Coffs.	23. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Influenza.
Llanwarne C of E.	23. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Influenza.
How Caple C.	23. 1.39 - 27. 1.39	Coughs and Colds.
Lea C of E	25. 1.39 - 3. 2.39	Whooping Cough.
Foy	25. 1.39 - 3. 2.39	Coughs & Colds.
Aston Ingham C of E	30. 1.39 - 3. 2.39	Whooping Cough.
Brampton Abbotts C of E	28. 3.39 - 31. 3.39	Whooping Cough.
Brampton Abbotts C of E.	3. 4.39 - 6. 4.39	Whooping Cough.

School Closures Cont'd.

<u>School.</u>	<u>Period.</u>	<u>Cause.</u>
Marstow Glewstone C of E	23. 5.39 - 26. 5.39	Influenza.
Aston Ingham C of E	31. 7.39 - 4. 8.39	Measles.
Aston Ingham C of E	20. 7.39 - 21. 7.39	Measles.
Bridstow C of E	16.10.39 - 20.10.39	Scarlet Fever.
Bridstow C of E	23.10.39 - 27.10.39	Scarlet Fever.
Weston-under-Penyard	11.12.39 - 22.12.39	Scarlet Fever.
Weston-under-Penyard	4.12.39 - 8.12.39	Scarlet Fever.
Weston-under-Penyard	27.11.39 - 1.12.39	Scarlet Fever.

SECTION D. - HOUSING.

14 New Houses were erected by private enterprise in the District during the year.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR:-

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	249
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	493
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	95
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	153
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	3
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	107

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	98
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR:-

(a) -Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act 1936:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	3
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-	
(a) By owners	nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil
(b) -Proceedings under Public Health Acts:	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-	
(a) By owners	nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	nil

(c) -Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made

1

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders

1

(d) -Proceedings under section 12 of Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made

Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit

Nil.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936. - Part IV. - OVERCROWDING:-

(a) - (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year.

3

(ii) Number of families dwelling therein.

3

(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein.

25

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year

nil.

(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year

6

(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases

23

(d) - Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding

nil

SECTION E. - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.-

There were 237 persons registered with the Local Authority under the Milk and Dairies Order, 1926, at the end of the year.

All premises are regularly inspected, 218 such inspections being made during the year, as a result of which improvements were secured in 13 cowsheds.

There are no pasteurisation plants within the District.

10 Samples of Milk were examined for the presence of Haemolytic Streptococci, and 3 for the coli-typhoid group of organisms.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.-

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, ex- cluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep & Lambs.	Page.
Number killed (if known)	63	3	20	717	93
Number inspected	63	3	17	698	78
<u>ALL DISEASES EXCEPT TUBERCULOSIS.</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned.	-	-	-	-	3
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	6	-	-	19	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis.	9.52%	-	-	2.72%	6.41

Carcases Inspected and Condemned - Cont'd

<u>TUBERCULOSIS ONLY.</u>	<u>Cattle ex- cluding Cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves.</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs.</u>	<u>Pigs.</u>
Whole Carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis.	1.58%	-	-	-	5.23%

SECTION F. - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Two important changes occurred during the year with regard to the notification of disease. By the coming into operation on the 1st October of Section 17 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, cases of food poisoning became notifiable; and Measles and Whooping Cough became notifiable on the 23rd October under the Measles and Whooping Cough Regulations, 1939.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>
Scarlet Fever.-	64	39
Diphtheria.-	4	3
Enteric Fever.-	2	-
Pneumonia.-	12	-
Purpural Pyrexia.-	3	-
Erysipelas.-	5	1
Whooping Cough.-	15	-

TUBERCULOSIS.

At the end of 1938 there were 36 cases of Tuberculosis on the Register; of these, 23 related to pulmonary and 13 non-pulmonary disease.

During the year 16 names were added to the register, 13 being for pulmonary disease and 3 for non-pulmonary disease.

Twenty cases were removed from the Register during the year 14 which suffered from pulmonary disease and 6 non-pulmonary disease.

The number of cases Remaining on the Register at the end of the year was 32 of which 22 were pulmonary and 10 non-pulmonary.

New Cases.

<u>Age Periods.</u>	<u>Res piratory</u>		<u>Non-res- piratory</u>	
	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
0 .-	-	-	-	-
1 .-	-	-	-	-
5 .-	-	-	1	-
15 .-	3	-	-	-
25 .-	-	-	-	-
35 .-	-	-	-	-
45 .-	1	-	-	-
55 .-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-
Totals	4	-	1	-